

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1-22 (canceled)

23. (Currently amended) A storage system comprising:

a first I/O port for connection to a communication network;

a plurality of I/O ports at least a second I/O port separate from the first I/O port for  
connection to ~~a~~ the communication network, the first and second I/O ports each receiving write  
requests;

an array of media for storing information, the array comprising a plurality of disk  
storage units organized into a plurality of logical disks;

a plurality of data paths, each data path being selectively connectable for selective  
~~connection~~ between any one of the logical disks and any one of the I/O ports; and

an allocator to allocate one of the data paths between one of the logical disks and  
one of the I/O ports based upon a data rate capability of ~~the said one~~ data path[[s]] to thereby  
provide a desired quality of service.

24. (Previously presented) A storage system as in claim 23 wherein the array of  
media includes media having different operational characteristics, and wherein the storage  
system allocates individual ones of the media to individual ones of the data paths to provide the  
desired quality of service.

25. (Canceled)

26. (Previously presented) A storage system as in claim 24 wherein the array of  
media comprise hard disk drives, and the different operational characteristics comprise different  
speeds of operation.

1                   27. (Currently amended) A storage system as in claim 24 wherein the storage  
2 system allocates ones of the array of media based upon a data rate capability of the media and a  
3 data rate capability of ~~the~~ a communication link coupled to one of the data paths.

1                   28. (Currently amended) A storage system as in claim 24 wherein the desired  
2 quality of service comprises a specified bandwidth and wherein the storage system allocates  
3 individual ones of the media based upon ~~the~~ a guaranteed bandwidth.

1                   29. (Currently amended) A storage system comprising:  
2 an array of storage media;  
3 ~~a plurality of I/O ports~~ at least a first I/O port and a second I/O port separate from  
4 the first I/O port, each having a network connection operable to connect ~~to~~ the array to a network  
5 with a desired quality of service;  
6 a plurality of data paths to selectively couple the I/O ports to the storage media,  
7 wherein a data path between one or more of the storage media and the network connection is  
8 selected to provide sufficient data speed to accommodate the desired quality of service.

1                   30. (Currently amended) A method for allocating resources in a storage system,  
2 the storage system comprising a first of I/O port and a second I/O port separate from the first I/O  
3 port and an array of storage devices coupled to a network connection by data paths, the method  
4 comprising:

5                   establishing a data path between a storage device of the array and one of the I/O  
6 ports, wherein said one of the I/O ports is coupled to the network connection; the data path being  
7 selected to provide a sufficient data speed based upon data capacity of the storage device and  
8 data rate capability of the network connection; and

9                   selecting a storage device of the array based upon the data capacity and the data  
10 rate capability of the network connection.

1                   31. (Previously presented) The method of claim 30 wherein the step of  
2 establishing the data path comprises assigning a data path having a sufficient data speed to  
3 accommodate the desired quality of service.

1                   32. (Previously presented) The method of claim 30 wherein the step of  
2 establishing a data path comprises searching for unallocated data communications resources to  
3 accommodate a data capacity of the array.

1                   33. (Previously presented) The method of claim 30, wherein the step of selecting  
2 ones of the array comprises searching for unallocated ones of the array having a sufficient data  
3 capacity to match a data rate capability of the network connection.